

***Spiski* Gazetteer Online**

Russia “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

January 2016

GOAL

This guide will teach you how to use the *Spiski naseleennykh Mest Rossiiskoi Imperii*, also known as the *Spiski* gazetteer, to find locations and identify parishes for those locations.

INTRODUCTION

The most comprehensive gazetteer for the Russian Empire is *Spiski Naseleennykh Mest Rossiiskoi Imperii*, or the *Spiski* gazetteer. This gazetteer provides the location of religious congregations or parishes. The text is in Russian. Most volumes of the *Spiski* gazetteer can be found online. Links are provided on the FamilySearch Wiki page, which is accessible at: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russia_Gazetteers. If the gazetteer for your *gubernia* is not available online, they are available on microfiche at the Family History Library. For the FamilySearch Catalog entry, click here: <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/577447>.

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guides before continuing:

- [The Russian Alphabet](#)
- [RGN Gazetteer](#)

HOW TO

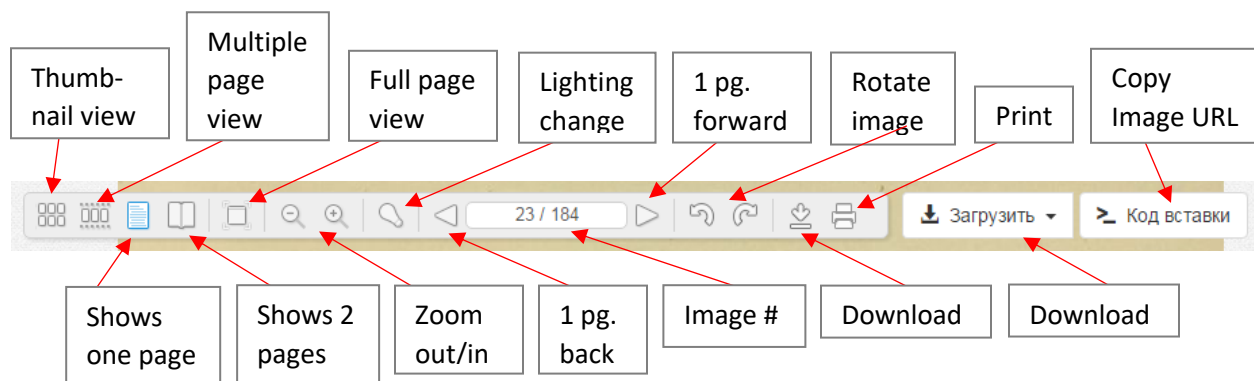
You must know the *gubernia*, or province, to use this gazetteer. If you do not know the *gubernia*, see the [RGN Gazetteer “How to” Guide](#). This gazetteer is divided into volumes by *gubernia* or provinces, and then organized geographically by locality rather than alphabetically; however, there is an alphabetical index at the end of each volume. Each town has an entry number.

Using the Online Version

Go to the [Russian Gazetteers FamilySearch Wiki](#) page and scroll down to the heading ***Spiski naseleennykh Mest Rossiiskoi Imperii***.

Let's explore the gazetteer for the *gubernia* **Архангельская г. (Archangel'sk)**. Open the gazetteer by clicking on the hyperlinked Russian name in the list.

The gazetteer for **Архангельск (Archangel'sk)** will open in a new tab. Scroll down to see thumbnail images of all the pages of the gazetteer. The gazetteer itself is in table format. Click on an image to open a zoomed in copy of that page. For navigation, you will see a tool bar at the top of the page that looks similar to the diagram below, which explains the functions.



Finding the Town

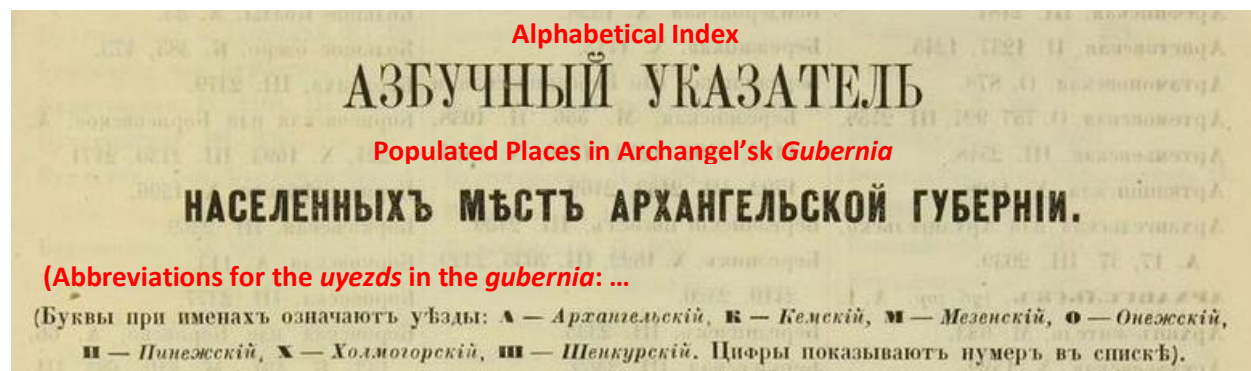
There are two ways to find the village that you are looking for:

1. **Using the reference found from *Russisches Geographisches Namenbuch* (RGN) gazetteer.** If you have not consulted the RGN, [click here](#) to learn how to use it. If you have already found your town in in RGN your entry may look similar to this:

Маолошуйский Погост Pogost am F. Malosujka, Bez. 1, Kr. Onega, G.
Archangel'sk (Arch. 61, Nr. 999)

This entry shows that the town can be found in the *Spiski* gazetteer, the volume for Archangel'sk, entry number 999. Using the reference number provided (999), search the gazetteer by entry number to find the town.

2. **Using the Alphabetical Index (Азбучный Указатель).** If you know both the town name and the *gubernia* that it belonged to, use the Alphabetical Index. The alphabetical index is near the end of the gazetteer; in this case, image 159/184. Look at the image below to see what the top of the first page will look like.



Source: <http://elibrary.shpl.ru/ru/nodes/12240-vyp-1-arhangelskaya-guberniya-po-svedeniyam-1859-goda-1861#page/159/mode/inspect/zoom/6> : accessed 24 March 2016.

The first entry reads: Абакумовская или Абакумовское О.897, Ш. 2391, 2419

The gazetteer lists two different ways the place can be spelled. It then states that there are 3 different localities in Archangels'sk with this name. One is the Онежский *uyezd*, entry 897. There are two in the Шенкурский *uyezd*, entries 2391 and 2419. You find the entry for the place by looking through the gazetteer pages looking for the number in the far left column.

Reading the Entry

No	название населенных мѣстъ	положеніе	Разстояніе въ верстахъ		число дворовъ	число жителей		Церкви и молитвенныя зданія; учебныя и благотворительныя заведенія, почтовыя....
			Отъ уѣздн города	Отъ станов. кварт		м. п.	ж. п.	
No	Place name	Location	Distance in miles		Number of buildings	Number of Residents		Churches, prayer houses, schools, post office etc.
			From <i>uyezd</i>	From Stan		Male	Female	

One of the most important things to look for is the parish. If there is a church in the town, Церковь (church) OR Церковей (churches) will be found in the final column. The numbers next to them indicate how many churches are found in the locality. The following words indicate different denominations:

православная	Russian Orthodox
католическая	Catholic
протестантская	Protestant
римско- католическая	Roman Catholic
греко-католическая церковь	Greek Catholic
единоверческая церковь	Common Faith
синагога еврейская	Jewish Synagogue
лютеранская	Lutheran

If there is not a church listed for your locality for the religion you are researching, the family would have gone to the church closest to them. Make sure to check the records in the town above and/or below them in the list that has a church. (sometimes you may need to look on a previous page). If you do not find the family in either of those parishes, check the next two closest on either side. This gazetteer is organized geographically so the surrounding towns in the gazetteer are likely closest to them physically; however, do not assume that the closest entry on the page is the closest geographically. In some cases, the closest parish may be on the page before or after. It may be helpful to map out locations, and the distance from the uyezd city and the stan can also be helpful in determining nearby locations.

Keep in mind that even if your family was not Russian Orthodox, their records may be found in the Russian Orthodox Church if their denomination did not have a church nearby.

Further information

- Read the jurisdictions section found on the Russia Genealogy Wiki page, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russia_Genealogy.

PRACTICE

Let's say you have a town name, Абалиха (Abalikha), and you have found from the RGN gazetteer that Абалиха is in the Saratov gubernia, entry number 273.

1. Go to the Russian Gazetteers page on the FamilySearch Wiki, found at the following link: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Russia_Gazetteers. Scroll down the section containing the *Spiski* gazetteer and look for Саратовская г. (Saratov). Click on the Russian name to bring up the online version in a new tab.
2. Scroll down the new page until you begin seeing thumbnails of the pages of the gazetteer. Keep scrolling until you see the thumbnail images that look like a table with lists of towns. Click on one of those pages.
3. When the page opens up you will see numbers on the far left column. These are the entry numbers. From the RGN we learned that Абалиха was entry 273. Use the arrows, or page numbers to scroll through the pages until you find entry number 273. The entry for Абалиха is found on image 70. Look in the far-right column of the gazetteer. Here, you will find the phrase Церковь православная, followed by the number 1. This means that this town is also a parish, because it contains one Russian Orthodox Church.

Next, look for the town of Казанка (Kazanka). You know that this town is in the Yekaterinoslav gubernia (now in Ukraine). Follow step one above, but look for Екатеринославская г. (Yekaterinslav). Click on the Russian name to bring up the online version in a new tab.

4. Scroll through the thumbnails of the gazetteer past the pages that look to have tables with the town entries of the gazetteer until you see images that look like an index. Open up the page and search the index alphabetically until you find Казанка, Kazanka. You will find the entry on image number 175, and that Казанка is entry B. 1290.
5. Click on the thumbnail icon to return to the page showing the thumbnails for the pages of the book. Scroll through them until you find the pages with the tables for the entries of the gazetteer. Click on one of the pages to open the book.
6. Look in the column on the far left column to see the entry number. Scroll through the pages until you find the entry number 1290. It is on image 101. At the top of the page is recorded the following phrase: ЕКАТЕРИНОСЛАВСКАЯ ГУБ. – БЕРХЕДНЪПРОВСКІЙ УѢЗДЪ. This means that the location is in the Yekaterinoslav gubernia and the Berkhedneprovskij uyezd. The entry shows that Казанка does not have its own church. However, there are several Russian Orthodox churches found on the surrounding pages. Although the parish in Пушкаровка is the closest on the page, the closest geographically is Домоткань, which can be found on the previous page.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.